

Weekly Column for June 21, 2007

Welcome to the summer- officially. Of course it has been unofficial to this point, despite our greatest efforts to speed up the process.

This week I must first give out many thanks to everyone who worked on the River Street Festival for the past four months. From WEQX to City staff to volunteers and sponsors, it was a total team effort, and could not have been pulled off without help from everyone.

With sun shining down on us from above, the bands played, the vendors sold, and the visitors and residents had a great time. Estimates of the crowd were around 20,000, many of whom were visiting our City for the first time. That is what we were looking for. We want to draw people in, show them what we have, and get them to come back again and again.

If you came to the festival, thanks for heading out and supporting a great event. Hope you had fun.

I have a few things to run through this week. First, the annual Neighborhood Improvement Through Code Enforcement (the NICE Program) began earlier this month in South Troy. If you live in South Troy, throughout the summer Code Enforcement officers will be walking through your neighborhood, looking for violations on the exterior of buildings.

This program has worked wonders already in the Beman Park, Congress Street, and North Central areas of the City. We expect it will have similar results in South Troy. Keeping neighborhoods clean and building a sense of pride goes a long way towards improving our community.

Code Enforcement will visit each building in the area, and when they see violations, a notice will be sent to the owner that explains the rules of the enforcement. We work very closely with each owner to see that the problems are fixed in a timely manner. If people are short on money we have several grant programs that can help out, including the Home Code Compliance Grant Program, which was instituted last July and is off to a blazing start.

Another program that the City provides is the Paint Program, which provides money to purchase supplies to paint your home. It is a wonderful grant, and dovetails greatly with the NICE Program. For more information, please contact Dave Saehrig at 270-4628. Applications are due by July 30th.

Any questions about the NICE program, don't hesitate to give me a call or send an e-mail. Have a wonderful weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy